



# The Certifier

A Newsletter for Environmental Control Certifying Authorities

## ABC's New Examination Proctor Policy

The ABC Board of Directors approved the following ABC Examination Proctor Policy during its June meeting in San Antonio, TX.

### Examination Proctor Policy

All ABC certification exams must be taken under the supervision of an impartial and well-trained proctor. The proctor ensures the credibility of the certification process by administering and monitoring the testing of individuals.

Each testing client or their designated test administrator is responsible for selecting local proctors to administer ABC exams. National private testing centers must be approved by ABC before they can proctor an ABC exam. ABC offers the following recommendations for testing clients to use in selecting proctors:

- Certification program personnel and university/college testing centers are recommended by ABC as proctors.

- Proctors should have no vested interest in candidate exam performance. Possible sources of a conflict of interest are being a coworker, employer, trainer, instructor, or relative of a candidate.

- Proctors should be asked to disclose affiliations that may influence their judgment. These affiliations may include employment with employers of potential candidates, appointed or elected positions in which the proposed proctor has a vested interest in the operation of a specific system at which candidates may be employed, and relationships in which a proctor may financially benefit from a candidate's exam result.

If a potential conflict of interest is identified, the testing client is responsible for determining if the individual will be allowed to proctor the certification exam.

To serve as an exam proctor, an individual must agree to execute the following duties:

- Comply with *Instructions for Administering ABC Examinations*

- Agree to avoid disclosing, using or exploiting confidential ABC information and exam content

- Carefully monitor candidates and testing room conditions during the exam session

- Ensure that examinees do not receive any assistance while taking the exam; all ABC standardized exams are closed book

- Enforce all certification program and exam procedure rules

- Adhere to high standards of ethical conduct

It is the responsibility of the proctor to aggressively ensure the security of the examination at all times and to immediately report any security breaches to ABC and the certifying authority. The proctor must ensure the security of testing material:

- Comply with ABC's Examination Security Policy

- Securely store examinations prior to and following administration

- Ensure examinations are not reproduced, copied, photographed or recorded

- Ensure all exam material is collected and accounted for prior to candidates leaving the test room

- Ensure exam material is securely shipped to certification program or ABC within 5 days of the exam session

All proctors must sign a form stating that they agree to comply with this policy, the *Instructions for Administering ABC Examinations*, and the *Exam Security Policy*. These forms must be kept on file by each certifying agency. ❖

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# ABC Certification Program Exam Administration and Fee Policy

In addition to the services provided to regular member certifying authorities, ABC offers a certification program to individual operators/analysts. The following policy was approved by the ABC Board of Directors in June, 2006 and applies only to operators and analysts seeking voluntary certification through the ABC Certification Program. This policy does not affect ABC's Testing Service exam administration and fees.

## **Exam administration in the U.S. and Canada**

The ABC Certification Program will offer both computerized certification exams and, on a limited basis, paper and pencil exams. AMP will provide proctoring services for the ABC Certification Program's computerized exams.

Applicants will have the option to take a paper and pencil exam if the state or provincial certification program where the operator/analyst works is willing to administer the exam during their state/provincial certification exam time.

## **Exam administration outside the U.S. and Canada**

Outside the U.S. and Canada only computerized certification exams will be offered through AMP exam centers. Paper and pencil exams will not be offered outside the U.S. with the exception of the following.

- 1) Paper and pencil exams will be made available to individuals working at military installations that have access to DANTES education centers.
- 2) Paper and pencil exams will be made available in locations where proctoring can be done through an established certification program, or government health department/environmental agency that has been approved by ABC.

If an AMP location or an ABC approved proctor is not available, then ABC will not be able to provide certification exams to those individuals.

## **Fees**

Applicants will prepay an application review fee to ABC. If an applicant is approved to take a certification exam, s/he will pay additional proctoring fees if required by the proctor. Those fees will be paid directly to the proctor. ❖

# ABC On-Line Certification Database

Why update your program's information?

*Because others rely on it!*

The ABC On-Line Certification Database is only as good as YOU make it.

The Database is *free* for everyone to use. It can help you evaluate reciprocity requests and it can help operators who are relocating to other states or provinces.

To view and compare program information, go to:

[www.abccertonline.org](http://www.abccertonline.org)

To update your program's data, go to:

[www.abccertonline.org/login.htm](http://www.abccertonline.org/login.htm)

Certification officers may obtain ID and password information from the ABC office, [abc@abccert.org](mailto:abc@abccert.org)

## EPA's Benjamin Grumbles Acknowledges Important Role of the Water Treatment Operator

*Remarks delivered by Benjamin Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, during EPA's celebration to promote public awareness of the Four Pillars of Sustainable Infrastructure, May 10, 2006.*

I would like to welcome you here today as we gather to celebrate National Drinking Water Week and to raise public awareness of one of my key priorities – how our Nation views, values, manages, and invests in its water infrastructure.

Whether your tap water comes from surface or ground water, all drinking water sources are vulnerable to a variety of contaminants from a variety of sources. The origin of contaminants might be in your neighborhood or many miles away. When rain falls or snow melts, it picks up and carries away pollutants, depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal and even underground sources of drinking water.

Because we know these activities have the potential to contaminate the source of our drinking water, we have created “multiple barriers” to ensure water is safe to drink. These barriers include Risk Prevention through watershed protection, Risk Management through treatment, Risk Monitoring through proper water quality sampling, and Individual Action through public participation and knowledge of their water system.



However, the main barrier to preventing risk is not a “thing,” it’s a person - your water system’s operator! Certified water system operators play a very important role in protecting the health of all Americans. Certified operators are responsible for providing each of you with an adequate supply of safe, potable, drinking water and ensuring that you are confident that your water is safe to drink.

Public water system operators are required by law to be trained and certified to have the knowledge, skills, ability and judgment to provide safe drinking water. Operators take water quality samples to ensure that drinking water meets all health-based standards, they operate complex treatment technologies and they perform maintenance duties on water system assets.

Operators use math and chemistry on a daily basis as part of their job of protecting your public health. Many of the public water systems in this country are small and serve less than 3,300 persons. Operators of those systems often find it hard to leave their systems to go to training. The Delaware Rural Water Association’s Mobile Training Unit has been designed to bring on-site, one-on-one training to those operators!

I would like to personally thank Mr. Rick Duncan, Program Specialist and Chief Staff Officer of the Delaware Rural Water Association, for bringing the mobile unit to Washington, DC for this event. I hope that every visitor here today will take the opportunity to visit the Mobile Training Unit and find out what it’s like to be an operator for a day!

In addition to ensuring that we have properly trained operators to ensure a safe supply of drinking water, we must all grapple with the challenge of sustaining a robust infrastructure that ensures safe drinking water and clean watersheds.

The problem is huge. If investment in water and wastewater infrastructure does not increase, a funding gap that exceeds \$200 billion may develop over the next 20 years. If improvements are not made, then increased pollutant loadings to surface waters could lead to increases in waterborne disease.

EPA’s Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are highly successful programs managed by the states that help to address the funding gap. The programs provide funds for a wide variety of priority projects to clean up watersheds and ensure safe drinking water. Together, the two programs have provided more than \$60 billion for water quality and drinking water projects.

But federal dollars are not the only answer. We are also working with our stakeholders to promote other areas that are essential to sustain our infrastructure over the long-term.

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## Benjamin Grumbles' Remarks *continued from page 3*

Our Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative is intended to guide our efforts in changing how the Nation values its water infrastructure. The stewardship initiative has four pillars:

- **Better Management** – Different approaches to managing assets, consolidating services, and public-private partnerships can offer significant savings for large and small water utilities. Last week I signed an agreement with several associations representing water and wastewater utilities to work to identify “key attributes of effectively managed utilities” and share those practices with other utilities.
- **Full-Cost Pricing** – Full-cost pricing and rate restructuring can help utilities capture the actual costs of operating water systems, raise revenues, and also help to conserve water. We recently released a case studies document demonstrating how several utilities successfully restructure rates to ensure that they would have the funding to address the costs.
- **Efficient Water Use** – More efficient practices by utilities and consumers can reduce infrastructure costs and protect the environment. Implementing leak detection programs can help utilities to significantly decrease their unaccounted water, which can reduce costs for energy and chemicals needed to treat the water. At the customer level, water conservation saves money for families, which is why EPA and others are so enthusiastic about identifying and promoting incentives for water efficient appliances and fixtures.
- **Watershed Approaches to Protection** – Finally, we are encouraging communities to consider their water infrastructure within the context of the watershed. A broader approach through such activities as permitting on a watershed basis and water quality trading ensures that resources are directed at the highest priorities and that actions achieve the greatest benefit. Incorporating smart growth and low impact development principles in watershed planning can also support long-term sustainable water infrastructure.

I invite you to visit the tent to learn more about these pillars and how together they will help us ensure sustainable infrastructure now and in the future. ❖

## CALENDAR

### **August 11-12, 2006**

ABC Executive Committee  
Summer Meeting  
Estes Park, CO

### **October 20, 2006**

ABC Executive Committee Meeting  
Dallas, TX

### **October 21, 2006**

ABC Board of Directors Meeting  
Dallas, TX

### **January 16, 2007**

ABC Executive Committee Meeting  
Savannah, GA

### **January 16-19, 2007**

ABC Annual Conference  
Savannah, GA

### **January 20, 2007**

ABC Board of Directors Meeting  
Savannah, GA

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*For information on ABC activities, call  
515/232-3623, fax 515/232-3778, e-mail  
abc@abccert.org, or visit our web site at  
www.abccert.org*

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